

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD**

CONCILIATION AGREEMENT

In the Matter of the Curtis Johnson For MN House committee (19046);

1. Curtis Johnson For MN House is the principal campaign committee of Curtis Johnson, a candidate for House District 40B. The committee filed its first report of receipts and expenditures with the Board on July 29, 2024. Three days later the committee contacted Board staff and explained that it may have inadvertently accepted a contribution from a lobbyist during a regular session of the legislature. After consulting Board staff, the committee filed an amended 2024 pre-primary report on August 8, 2024, showing that a \$250 contribution was made by lobbyist William Harper on February 22, 2024.
2. Minnesota Statutes section 10A.273, subdivision 1, prohibits a candidate for the legislature from accepting a contribution from a registered lobbyist during a regular session of the legislature and the legislature was in regular session on February 22, 2024. The Johnson committee issued a refund check to Mr. Harper in August 2024, but the contribution was not returned within 90 days of deposit and is therefore deemed accepted under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.15, subdivision 3.
3. The committee's treasurer, Clare Sorman, stated that the contribution was made via ActBlue, was not accompanied by Mr. Harper's Board registration number as required by Minnesota Statutes section 10A.15, subdivision 5, and included employment information indicating that Mr. Harper was employed by the campaign committee of a Congressional candidate rather than as a lobbyist. Also, the address provided with the contribution did not match the address listed on Mr. Harper's lobbyist registration and the name of the contributor is a common name. Ms. Sorman was not serving as the committee's treasurer at the time the contribution was received.
4. The parties agree that the committee inadvertently accepted a contribution from a registered lobbyist during a regular session of the legislature in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.273, subdivision 1. The committee registered with the Board in January 2024 and this is the committee's first violation of the restrictions on contributions during the legislative session. Because the contribution made by Mr. Harper did not indicate that it was made by a lobbyist, the Board declines to impose a civil penalty on the Johnson committee.
5. To avoid a similar violation in the future, the committee agrees that it will continue to use the Board's Campaign Finance Reporter Online application, ensure that the committee's treasurer enters contributions within 60 days of receipt, and review and address all compliance warnings. The committee agrees to modify its ActBlue contribution form to allow a contributor that is a lobbyist to enter their Board registration number when making a contribution.

6. The committee also agrees to provide to the Board, within 60 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties, a copy of the deposited check or other documentation showing that \$250 has been returned to Mr. Harper.

7. If the committee does not comply with the provisions of this agreement, this matter may be reopened by the Board and the Board may take such actions as it deems appropriate.

/s/ Curtis Johnson
Curtis Johnson
Curtis Johnson For MN House

Dated: October 4, 2024

/s/ David Asp
David Asp, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Dated: September 4, 2024